



**WAYNE M. DURDEN**  
CIRCUIT JUDGE  
TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
HARDEE, HIGHLANDS AND POLK COUNTIES

Polk County Courthouse  
255 North Broadway Avenue  
Post Office Box 9000, Drawer J-116  
Bartow, FL 33831-9000

**Cheryl Hess**, Judicial Assistant

April 18, 2024

Phone: (863) 534-4645  
Fax: (863) 534-7724

Governor Ron DeSantis  
Office of the Governor  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Subject: Judicial Retirement

Dear Governor DeSantis:

I have had the honor and privilege to have served as a Circuit Judge in the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, mostly in Polk County since August, 2010. Prior to that I served as an Assistant State Attorney in Polk County since November, 1987, and was Polk County Felony Director for the State Attorney's Office for 18 years preceding my appointment to the bench in 2010. All together, I have been in public service for approximately 40 years. I have decided it's my time to retire.

Therefore, I wish to announce my resignation/retirement effective at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2024, a few days prior to the end my current term which ends on January 6, 2025. In line with current legal authority, it is my understanding that your acceptance of my announcement of retirement prior to the election qualifying period next week will result in an appointment of a successor by you to my position, which is my hope and desire.

Please formally accept my resignation/retirement effective as indicated above as soon as practical.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Durden  
Circuit Judge

Cc: Honorable Carlos Muniz, Chief Justice, Florida Supreme Court  
Honorable Jay Yancey, Chief Judge, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Eric McClure, State Court Administrator  
Nick Sudzina, Court Administrator, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Florida Division of Retirement